that was then... june 1990

Ah, those were the days. Simple, uncomplicated and happier times, not the horrific retro-future society we struggle to survive in today. The One only cost £1.60, there was no horrible double-disk war raging between the magazines (in fact, back then coverdisks were a rare occurrence), and the good old British bobby wasn't afraid to give thugs a good clip round the ear and send them on their way. Hard to believe it was like that only two years ago... ah, sometimes the nostalgia can all get a bit too much. Sniff.

Anyway, the June of 1990 was the month that saw the first major redesign of the magazine since its launch two years previously. Farewell to the old logo then (which many complained was incomprehensible, leading to the magazine being known as "O The Ne" in certain circles) to make way for a more user-friendly motif. In fact the whole magazine was pretty much shaken-up from the inside out, and we celebrated our success - and the imminent World Cup - with a special Football souvenir issue. Top Dutch superstar Ruud Gullit graced our front cover for no particular reason other than he looked quite good, and inside there was a mega soccer feature and a pull-out World Cup wallchart. Mind you, we probably wouldn't have bothered if we'd known that the Germans would end up winning it.

Aside from the general football craziness, we found some space in the magazine to put some computer games in as well. And a good thing too, as it was a bit of a fine month for software. Definite highlight of the month was Microprose's brilliant Railroad Tycoon, with a sterling supporting cast made up of The Assembly Line's brilliantly-odd Vaxine, International 3D Tennis (reviewed on budget this month) and US Gold's Dynasty Wars (shurely shome mishtake? - Ed). Ocean's F-29 Retaliator topped the Amiga charts, and we uncovered some future beauties in Work in Progress, including Corporation, Flood, Monty Python and Flight of the Intruder. News-wise we also revealed some promising little numbers like Turrican and PGA Tour Golf - both of which are now firmly-established classics. Funny how much water can flow under the bridge in just 24 months, isn't it?

This was also the month that saw Ciaran Brennan leaving the magazine (hooray - the whole world) to launch sister mag PC Leisure (now PC Review), and the commencement of a brave - but ultimately ill-fated - new venture, the Encyclopedia of 16-bit games. This was supposed to build month by month into an invaluable tips bible for every game ever. Unfortunately it proved to be a bit of a work black-hole for the poor Gazzes Penn and Whitta, and so all it ended up building into was a rather scruffy pile of three or four pullout sections before we finally admitted defeat and pulled the plug. Of course in these enlightened times we have a much better idea of how to do with pullout tips with the Killzone section (although GW still has violent flashbacks if you saw the words "Player's Guide" within his earshot).

And that just about puts the wraps on another turbulent month in The One's magical history. Next month, July 1990! (although you probably didn't need to be told that, did you?)

Brimble -Tastic

Freelance music maestro Allister Brimble (the man behind many an Amiga soundtrack) has just released an audio tape called The Team 17 Works, comprising six of his best compositions. The 30 minute cassette includes music from the three Team 17 games he's written for - Full Contact, Alien Breed and Project-X - as well as three original compositions, entitled Magnetic Drops, Thesmophoria and Midsummer's Heat. If you're into new age type stuff, why not Give It A Try? The tape's available from Allister at Hill House, Lapford, Crediton, Devon EX17 6QE. The price is £3.49 including postage and packing.

CHARTS

Month Ending 27th April 1992

FULL PRICE TOP 40

1 (1)PROJECT-X (Team 17)
2 (NE)JOHN MADDEN FOOTBALL (Electronic Arts)
3 (NE)EYE OF THE BEHOLDER 2 (US Gold/SSI)
4 (NE)SPACE CRUSADE (Gremlin)
5 (NE)PARASOL STARS (Ocean)
6 (2)BLACK CRYPT (Electronic Arts)
7 (3)FORMULA ONE GRAND PRIX (Microprose)
8 (NE)THE MANAGER (US Gold)
9 (NE)EASY AMOS (Europress)
10 (5)HARLEQUIN (Gremlin)
11 (6) SPECIAL FORCES (Microprose)
12 (NE) A10 TANK KILLER ENHANCED (Sierra/Dynamix)
13 (NE)LEGEND (Mindscape)
14 (4) A320 AIRBUS (Thalion)
15 (NE) JOHN BARNES EUROPEAN FOOTBALL (Krisalis)
16 (NE) COVERT ACTION (Microprose)
17 (27) COVER GIRL POKER (Storm)
18 (NE) POLICE QUEST 3 (Sierra)
19 (17) POPULOUS II (Electronic Arts)
20 (9)ULTIMA VI (Mindscape/Origin)
21 (NE) SIM ANT (Ocean)
22 (40) STORM MASTER (Silmarils)
23 (NE) DIZZY'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURES (Codemasters)
24 (38) GATEWAY TO SAVAGE FRONTIER (US Gold/SSI)
25 (16) LEISURE SUIT LARRY 5 (Sierra)
26 (20)LEMMINGS (Psygnosis)
27 (15)PGA TOUR GOLF PLUS (Electronic Arts)
28 (NE)POOLS OF DARKNESS (US Gold/SSI)
29 (NE)WAYNE GRETZKY ICE HOCKEY 2 (US Gold)
30 (NE) TITUS THE FOX (Titus)
31 (8) SHADOWLANDS (Domark)
32 (NE)PACIFIC ISLANDS (Empire)
33 (NE) MIGHT & MAGIC III (US Gold)
34 (13) JIMMY WHITE'S WHIRLWIND SNOOKER (Virgin)
35 (RE)ALIEN BREED (Team 17)
36 (NE)CASTLES (Electronic Arts)
37 (7)ELVIRA 2 (Accolade)
38 (NE) ALCATRAZ (Infogrames)
39 (NE) CHAMPIONS (Krisalis)
40 (NE) STEEL EMPIRE (Millennium)

BUDGET TOP 20

1 (NE)DRAGONS OF FLAME (Kixx)
2 (NE)MICROPROSE SOCCER (Kixx)
3 (NE)LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO CHALLENGE (GBH)
4 (NE)WORLD CUP SOCCER (Tronix)
5 (2)JAMES POND (GBH)
6 (NE)TURRICAN 2 (Kixx)
7 (NE) ADS (Action 16)
8 (NE)MONTY PYTHON (Tronix)
9 (NE)SHADOW WARRIORS (The Hit Squad)
10 (NE)STUNT CAR RACER (Kixx)
11 (NE)MANCHESTER UNITED (GBH)
12 (NE)GOLDEN AXE (Tronix)
13 (1) RAINBOW ISLANDS (The Hit Squad)
14 (NE)NORTH AND SOUTH (Action16)
15 (NE)FANTASY WORLD DIZZY (Codemasters)
16 (NE) MOONWALKER (Kixx)
17 (NE) DRAGON NINJA (The Hit Squad)
18 (19) BUBBLE BOBBLE (The Hit Squad)
19 (3) F-16 COMBAT PILOT (Action 16)
20 (6)TOYOTA CELICA RALLY (GBH)

The One's Amiga charts, both full-price and budget, are compiled by MicroByte, with data gathered from 20 of the firm's retail outlets around the UK.